

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 4, wherein the first-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

3. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 4, wherein the last-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

4. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 4, the method further comprising, prior to transmitting, tagging the first message, the last message, and the any other message of the transaction with a transaction-counter identifier.

5. (Original) The medium of claim 4, wherein the transaction-counter identifier comprises an ordered-counter of bits.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 6, the method further comprising:

changing the transaction-counter identifier;
tagging a first message of a second transaction with the first-message identifier and the transaction-counter identifier as changed;
tagging a last message of the second transaction with the last-message identifier and the transaction-counter identifier as changed;
tagging any other message of the second transaction with the transaction-counter identifier as changed; and,
transmitting the first message, the last message, and the any other message of the second transaction.

8. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 6³₂, wherein the first-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

9. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 6³₂, wherein the last-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

10. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 6³₂, wherein the transaction-counter identifier comprises an ordered counter of bits.

11. (Original) The medium of claim 7, wherein the transaction-counter identifier comprises an ordered counter of bits, and changing the transaction-counter identifier comprises incrementing the ordered counter of bits.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 12³₄, wherein repeating receiving an additional message until the additional message received is tagged with one of the first-message identifier and a last-message identifier comprises repeating receiving the additional message until the additional message received is tagged with one of the first-message identifier, the last-message identifier and a transaction-counter identifier unequal to a transaction-counter identifier with which the first message is tagged.

14. (Original) The medium of claim 13, wherein upon determining that the additional message is tagged with the last-message identifier; concluding at least that a transaction having a proper first and last message has been received comprises upon determining that the additional message is tagged with the last-message identifier and with a transaction-counter identifier equal to a transaction-counter identifier with which the first message is tagged, concluding at least that a transaction having a proper first and last message has been received only upon so determining.

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15. (Currently amended) The medium of claim ~~1234~~, wherein the first-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

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16. (Currently amended) The medium of claim ~~1234~~, wherein the last-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The medium of claim ~~1735~~, wherein the transaction-counter identifier comprises an ordered counter of bits.

19. (Currently amended) The medium of claim ~~1735~~, wherein the first-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

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20. (Currently amended) The medium of claim ~~1735~~, wherein the last-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

21. (Canceled)

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22. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2136~~, further initially comprising, at the sender, tagging each message of the transaction as part of the transaction.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising, at the received, determining whether each message received after the first message of the transaction is tagged as part of the transaction, until the tagged last message of the transaction has been received, and concluding at least that a transaction having a proper first and last message has been received only upon so determining.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The sender computer of claim 2437, further comprising a processor and a computer-readable medium, such that the computer program is executed by the processor from the computer-readable medium. ²⁴

26-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) The received computer of claim 2739, further comprising a processor and a computer-readable medium, such that the computer program is executed by the processor from the computer-readable medium. ²⁷

29-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 1, A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a sender within a message transaction system, to perform a method comprising:

tagging a first message of a transaction with a first-message identifier;
tagging a last message of the transaction with a last-message identifier;
transmitting the first message, the last message, an any other message of the transaction; and,

wherein the any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

33. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 6, A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a sender within a message transaction system, to perform a method comprising:

tagging a first message of a transaction with a first-message identifier and a transaction-counter identifier;
tagging a last message of the transaction with a last-message identifier and the transaction-counter identifier;
tagging any other message of the transaction with the transaction-counter identifier;
transmitting the first message, the last message, and the any other message of the transaction; and,

wherein the any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

34. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 12, A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a receiver within a message transaction system, to perform a method comprising:

receiving a first message;

determining whether the first message is tagged with a first-message identifier;

upon determining that the first message is tagged with the first-message identifier,

repeating receiving an additional message until the additional message received is

tagged with one of the first-message identifier and a last-message identifier;

upon determining that the additional message is tagged with the last-message

identifier, concluding at least that a transaction having a proper first and last message has
been received;

otherwise concluding that an error has occurred;

otherwise concluding that an error has occurred; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

35. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 17, A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a receiver within a message transaction system, to perform a method comprising:

receiving a first message;

determining whether the first message is tagged with a first-message identifier;

upon determining that the first message is tagged with the first-message identifier,

repeating receiving an additional message until the additional message received is

tagged with one of the first message identifier, a last-message identifier, and an transaction-

counter identifier unequal to a transaction-counter identifier with which the first message is

tagged;

upon determining that the additional message is tagged with the last-message
identifier and with a transaction-counter identifier equal to a transaction-counter identifier
with which the first message is tagged, concluding at least that a transaction having a proper
first and last message has been received;

otherwise concluding that an error has occurred;
otherwise concluding that an error has occurred; and,
wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, A computer-implemented method for performance within an transaction message system ^{within a network} comprising:
at a sender, for a transaction comprising an ordered plurality of messages, tagging a first message of the transaction with a first-message identifier and tagging a last message of the transaction with a last-message identifier;
transmitting the messages of the transaction from the sender to a receiver;
at the receiver, determining whether the tagged first message of the transaction and the tagged last message of the transaction have been received, and upon so determining,
concluding at least that a transaction having a proper first and last message has been received;
and,
wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

27. (Currently amended) The sender computer of claim 24, A sender computer of a message transaction system ^{within a network} comprising:
a communication device;
a computer program designed to set transactional boundaries among messages, such that a receiver computer is able to determine whether at least a proper first and last message of a transaction have been received, and to transmit the messages via the communications device; and,
wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

28. (Currently amended) The sender computer of claim 26, A sender computer of a message transaction system ^{within a network} comprising:
a communication devices;
means for setting transactional boundaries among messages, such that a receiver computer is able to determine whether at least a proper first and last message of a transaction have been received, and for transmitting the message via the communications device; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

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39. (Currently amended) The receiver computer of claim 27, A receiver computer of a message transaction system, comprising:
within a network
a communications device;
a computer program designed to receive messages via the communications device,
and to determine transactional boundaries among the messages, such that the program is able
to determine whether at least a proper first and last message of a transaction have been
received; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

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40. (Currently amended) The receiver computer of claim 29, A receiver computer of a message transaction system, comprising:
within a network
a communications device;
means for receiving messages via the communications device, and for determining
transactional boundaries among the messages, such that the means is able to determine
whether at least a proper first and last message of a transaction have been received; and,
wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

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41. (Currently amended) The system of claim 30, A computerized message transaction system, comprising:
within a network
a first computer designed to at least set transactional boundaries among messages, and
to transmit the messages;
a second computer designed to at least receive the messages, and to determine the
transactional boundaries among the messages, such that the second computer is able to
determine whether at least a proper first and last message of a particular transaction have
been received; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

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42. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, A computerized message transaction system, comprising:
within a network

means for setting transactional boundaries among messages, and transmitting the message;

means for receiving the messages, and for determining the transactional boundaries among the messages, such that the means is able to determine whether at least a proper first and last message of a particular transaction have been received; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.